

Tracking Your Assets:

How an Asset Management System Will Rescue Your Budget & Your Inventory

In today's hyper-connected world, no organization can thrive without mobile technology, including school districts and educational institutions. As educators continue to invest in high-value technology assets, keeping track of an increasing number of devices has become a monumental task—with the price tag to match.

In fact, according to EdNET Insight's State of the K-12 Market 2015 report, tablet purchases are on the agenda for nine in 10 school districts, and 86% of schools have laptops on their shopping lists. With federal agencies footing the bill for more than \$300 trillion in STEM investments each year, it's clear that keeping track of technology assets with pen, paper, and an Excel spreadsheet is not the best practice.

Asset management systems help clients reign in expenses and account for their assets. Below, we share five tips to take charge of your technology:

1. Keep Track of Devices in Real-Time

Traditional methods for keeping track of technology assets simply don't cut it anymore. The days when we could rely on the honor system and those trusty sign-out sheets are long gone, as laptops, tablets, and other mobile/portable devices—typically high-dollar investments—are too easily misplaced.

Missing assets usually fall into two categories: theft and human error. A solid asset management system will virtually eliminate these issues with the ability to track via barcode—so you'll know exactly when and where an asset was checked out, who checked it out, and when you can expect it to be returned.

2. Reduce Paperwork and Human Error

Even the most meticulous accountants and spreadsheet gurus make errors now and then. One out-of-place comma or incorrect number can wreak havoc on an accounting system, not to mention the financial risk that occurs when an item isn't logged correctly into the manual inventory in the first place.

Asset management software solves these problems by providing a digital footprint along with an accurate record of your assets and their identifying information—without relying on the human element to input a thirty-character bar code accurately into the system.

3. Calculate Depreciation Easily and Accurately

When a technology asset's depreciation isn't tracked or when it is calculated incorrectly, it can negatively affect your taxes and insurance premiums. A comprehensive asset management tracking system allows you to record all necessary asset depreciation information, and even offers the ability to customize alerts that let you

know when a particular asset is reaching the end of its useful life, needs maintenance, or otherwise requires attention.

4. Take Advantage of Mobile and Cloud Computing

The remote workforce is on the rise, and more people are working in the cloud than ever before. Portable devices and smartphones can be seamlessly integrated with your cloud-based asset management system to allow convenient scanning and synchronizing of assets on the go, without having to wait to get back to the office to upload information into the centralized database.

An asset management tracking system integrated with cloud computing capabilities means you'll get updates in real-time and from any device, anywhere—so you'll always know where your assets are at any given moment. This kind of insight and control reduces risk and improves the performance of [1:1 devices strategies](#).

5. Keep Records Consistent Across Personnel

When it comes to personnel changes, asset management the old-fashioned way proves difficult, if not impossible. In the past, inventory lists and audits abruptly went offline when the teacher or administrator in charge was transferred, out sick, or terminated. Unless another employee picked up the slack right away, any hope of accuracy was likely lost during the transition.

These days, with the benefit of our [asset management software SAM](#) (school asset manager), our clients never have to worry about a break in protocol or lack of accurate and current inventory information when a new asset manager takes up the reins. Our clients appreciate the ability to keep data and asset inventory up to date in real time, offering seamless continuity and accountability across their organizations for the long haul.

Sign up for a 30-day free trial of SAM to see for yourself how this complete school asset management system uses the latest in cloud and mobile technology to save time and money for your organization!